

Dear Russian Stafford enthusiasts,

I was asked by the committee that organised the show on the 30-03-2019 in Moscow to write some lines about mine findings. First of all I want to thank everybody from the bottom of my heart who contributed to make this judging appointment in Russia an unforgettable one.

Secondly I want to point out that I had a nice entry of fourty Staffordshire Bull Terriers and mine findings are limited to this group. In a bigger group I might have found different things and in a smaller group I might not have noticed the things I mention in this small article.

Overall I can to say that I appreciated the quality of the dogs that were entered. Except one exhibit, and again this is my opinion, all entered had breedtype meaning, very basic, that I didn't have to look twice to see if it was a Staffordshire Bull Terrier I was judging or not. The big lines outlaid in the breedstandard were present in each exhibit, as said, expect in one.

I was impressed by the strength of underjaws, on most occasions when I judge and I notice a strong underjaw that comes along with an undershot bite, but not in the exhibits at your show. Well done to the breeders!

The photo below shows a strong, deep underjaw:



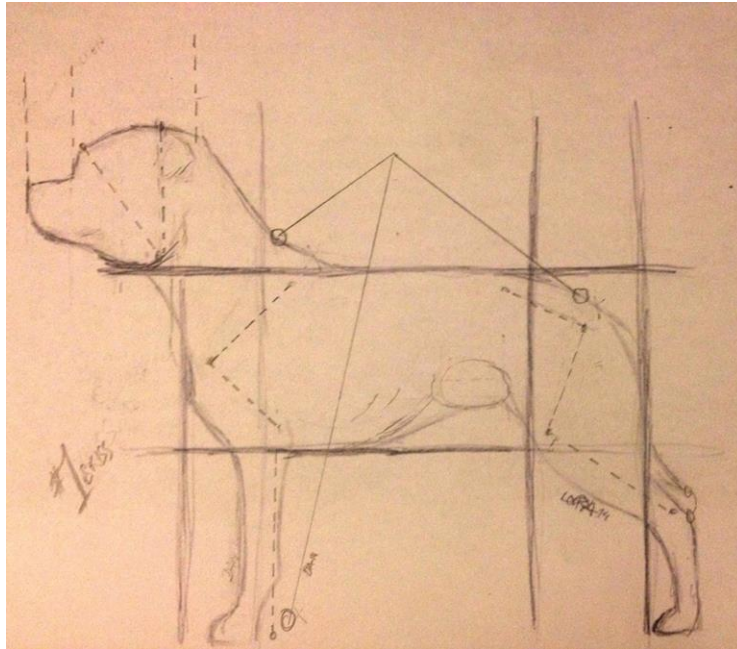
What is a point of attention in my view was the width in the front. The breedstandard asks for a wide front and often you see the lack of width in front in combination with lack of substance. Again, to stick to what is directed to us by the breedstandard, I just quote what is written there: well boned. Be aware!



*Credit for the wonderful photos:* Ксения Еропкина



Always keep in mind that a Staffordshire Bull Terrier is a blend of bull and terrier. The last thing that I want to point out is the correct body – leg ratio. Although not written down in the breed standard we all agree that the depth of the body is, or should be equal to the length of the legs, one could say that this is laid out in “the unwritten breed standard” . I saw quite some Staffords whose legs were too long compared to the depth in body



Now something different handling. I can't express it enough: "use a proper collar and lead on your dog". Quite some handlers use a choke chain, when used properly that's okay but on many occasions when going over the dog I've to loosen the collar as it's too tight around the dog's neck. Don't use a choke chain because others do so, use the collar and lead which is good for your dog and you. Nothing wrong with a proper leather collar and lead!. Unfortunately nowadays many adult Staffords in the showring, don't show energy let alone interest in other people and specifically the judge, because they're so focused on a ball or bait. In some cases they're so focused on the ball or bait that even a squeaking little pink pig doesn't seem to get in contact with the exhibit. When I came into the breed there was a proper way of showing Staffords, the Stafford stood four foot square and the handler was standing behind the dog,.. times change,.. and perhaps I'm asking too much,.. but please when showing the dog,.. show the dog and don't make it a hypnosis show, it doesn't do anything for our breed and your dog when it ignores the judge. Bait or a ball is a tool which can be used when showing nothing more nothing less.

Once again thank you so much and I hope that our paths will cross again somewhere in the future!

Yours in Staffords<  
Bianca Janssen  
"Staffjoy's"